

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8166

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3932

SAN SALVADOR FOR AGATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, NU

SUBJECT: ESTIMATES ON MEAT SHIPMENTS FROM NICARAGUA TO US SUBJECT
MEAT IMPORT QUOTA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3980; FASTO CIRC 437

1. SUMMARY. DURING RECENT VISIT AGATT O'MARA, REPRESENTATIVE NICARAGUAN EXPORTER SAID SUFFICIENT MEAT WOULD BE PRODUCED TO MEET US QUOTA BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER AVAILABILITY TRANSPORT. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ARRANGED A MEETING MORNING OCTOBER 8 WITH MEAT PACKERS, EMBOFF, AND NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE DURING WHICH TRANSPORT AND PRODUCTION WERE DISCUSSED WITH POSITIVE RESULTS. POTENTIAL YEAR'S PRODUCTION FOR EXPORTS TO US SET AT 48.8 MILLION LBS. (QUOTA IS 47.6 MILLION LBS.) AND MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MEETING WITH THE MANAGER OF IGOSA, A MEAT PACKING PLANT IN RIVAS, WE WERE TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH SUFFICIENT PRODUCTION WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE US QUOTA, THE NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE MAMENIC AND THE OTHER SCHEDULED CARRIER CCT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SHIP THE MEAT AVAILABLE WITH A SHORTFALL ESTIMATED AT 8 TO 10 MILLION LBS.

3. WE QUERIED KLAUS SENGLMANN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
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ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AND HE ARRANGED A MEETING WITH THE MEAT

PACKERS (IGOSA, CARNIC, IFAGAN, AND EMPANICSA) AND FAUSTO AMADOR, PRESIDENT OF MAMENIC ON OCTOBER 8. THE EMBASSY ECON OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED.

4. RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE POSITIVE. PACKERS GAVE THE FOLLOWING FOR MONTHLY PRODUCTION: THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, MEAT EXPORTED TO US 28,000,000 LBS, OCTOBER PRODUCTION 8,346,000 LBS., NOVEMBER PRODUCTION 5,000,000 LBS., DECEMBER PRODUCTION 4,500,000 LBS. TOTAL FOR YEAR 48.8 MILLION LBS.

5. MAMENIC IS ARRANGING SHIPMENTS FOR OCTOBER OF 7,280,000 LBS., NOVEMBER 6,900,000 LBS., AND DECEMBER 3,200,000 LBS. TOTAL AVAILABILITY FOR YEAR 45,380,000 LBS. PLUS ADDITIONAL 1,000,000 LBS. FRESH MEAT WILL BE SHIPPED BY AIR. ANOTHER SERVICE OF ABOUT 1,000,000 LBS. PER MONTH BY ONE OF THE PACKERS WILL BE GIVEN WAIVERS (MAMENIC HAS A MONOPOLY ON SHIPPING IN NICARAGUA) FOR A TOTAL SHIPPING AVAILABILITY OF 50 MILLION LBS.

6. TO ENSURE THAT SHIPPING AVAILABILITY AND MEAT PRODUCTION WILL MESH, IFAGAN REPRESENTING THE PACKERS AND MAMENIC WILL MEET EACH WEEK FROM NOW TO END OF YEAR.

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